

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 131843
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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 131843

FOLLOWING REPEAT SINAI 1208 ACTION SECSTATE INFO CAIRO TEL AVIV
JERUSALEM MAY 8.

QUOTE C O N F I D E N T I A L SINAI 1208

DEPT FOR SSM, KONTOS FROM THORNE

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, EG, IS, UN

SUBJ: PROPOSED EGYPTIAN VIOLATION OF SINAI II AGREEMENT

1. WE HAVE BEEN ADVISED BY CHIEF IDF LIAISON OFFICER COLONEL
LEVINSON THAT EGYPTIANS HAVE ADVISED UN, WHO IN TURN ADVISED
IDF, THAT THEY PROPOSE TO MOVE SIX SAM 6 AND FOUR SAM 2 MISSILES
ACROSS THE SUEZ CANAL AT QUANTARA AT NOON ON JUNE 9 FOR A
TWO-HOUR EXERCISE IN MOVING THE MISSILES INTO POSITION AND
SETTING THEM UP.

2. THIS IS THE FIRST TIME EITHER SIDE HAS GIVEN OFFICIAL
NOTIFICATION OF PLANS TO VIOLATE THE SINAI II AGREEMENT.

3. THERE IS A STRONG RUMOR WHICH I AM NOW CHECKING, THAT
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THE EGYPTIANS ALSO PLAN A TWO BATTALION NIGHT CROSSING OF THE
SUEZ CANAL AT THE SOUTH END OF LITTLE BITTER LAKE AT MIDNIGHT
TONIGHT FOR MANEUVERS LASTING UNTIL 0500 HOURS. I HAVE NO
INFORMATION AS TO WHETHER THESE TWO BATTALIONS ARE ADDITIVE TO
THOSE ALREADY IN THE EGYPTIAN LIMITED FORCES ZONE. WILL REPORT
WHEN I GET CLARIFICATION ON THIS.

4. GENERAL MAGDOUB MADE NO MENTION OF ANY OF THIS DURING MY CONVERSATION WITH HIM YESTERDAY AFTERNOON.

5. THE UN DID NOT INFORM SFM ON THE PROPOSAL ALTHOUGH ANY CROSSING IN THE VICINITY OF LITTLE BITTER LAKE WOULD BE EASILY VISIBLE TO THE MITLA WEST WATCH STATION AND WOULD BE POINTED TOWARDS THE WEST APPROACHES TO THE GIDDI AND MITLA PASSES. I HAVE DISCUSSED THIS WITH GENERAL SIILASVUO AND BELIEVE WE WILL BE INFORMED IN THE FUTURE. GENERAL SIILASVUO IS NOW STUDYING THE MATTER AND I WILL BE TALKING WITH HIM AGAIN LATER TODAY. SO FAR NEITHER ISRAEL NOR THE UN HAS PROTESTED THE PROPOSED MOVEMENTS.

6. HAVE JUST LEARNED THAT THE REASON FOR THE PROPOSED MOVEMENTS INTO THE LIMITED FORCES ZONE ARE FOR COMMERCIAL TV PROGRAMS TO UNDERSCORE COMBAT READINESS OF EGYPTIAN FORCES FOR THE PUBLIC.

7. WILL ADVISE FURTHER. THORNE UNQUOTE VANCE

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Message Attributes

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Sent Date: 08-Jun-1977 12:00:00 am
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